

JOHN



◆ 1812 Grave Marking in
East Pembroke, NY

◆ Andre' Trax

◆ The Apple of Her Eye

◆ T'was the night before

◆ Fresh Flowers

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Welcome to JOHN

Launching of JOHN this year was meant to capture in a small way a different approach to many topics that if not careful will be taken for granted.

The many positive comments received made these humble efforts all the worthwhile to continue. Thank you all for a good year.

A special tribute is in order for Christine Holley in this issue. Christine went on a journey of discovery to identify her 3rd Great Grandfather, Hiram S. Simpson as a veteran of the War of 1812. This journey resulted in a very formal grave marking ceremony in East Pembroke, NY in October. In addition to the information included within, you can see a slideshow presentation of the ceremony on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/rSKZMMMeBknU>

November marks the official time to honor our veterans of all wars. In addition to all the Americans who served, we should also remember other brave souls from other nations that served their countries with honor as well. Andre' Trax was part of the French Resistance in WWII and his story is one of the many that also needs to be told, honored and remembered.

The Apple of Her Eye is a story of a lighter note that hopefully will pay tribute to all those tireless researchers that labor endlessly to insure that family histories are not forgotten.

Finally, what would the Holiday season be without the reading of the "Twas the Night before Christmas"? Clement Moore, the author of the poem was a reticent man and it is believed that a family friend, Miss H. Butler, sent a copy of the poem to the TROY Sentinel who published the poem. Orville L. Holley was the editor of the Sentinel. The condition of publication was that the author was to remain anonymous.

As 2017 winds down, this author wants to extend to everyone a good holiday season and a best wishes for a very Happy New Year to all.

JAH



Grave Marking for Hiram S. Simpson

October 7, 2017
11:00 AM

An Invitation

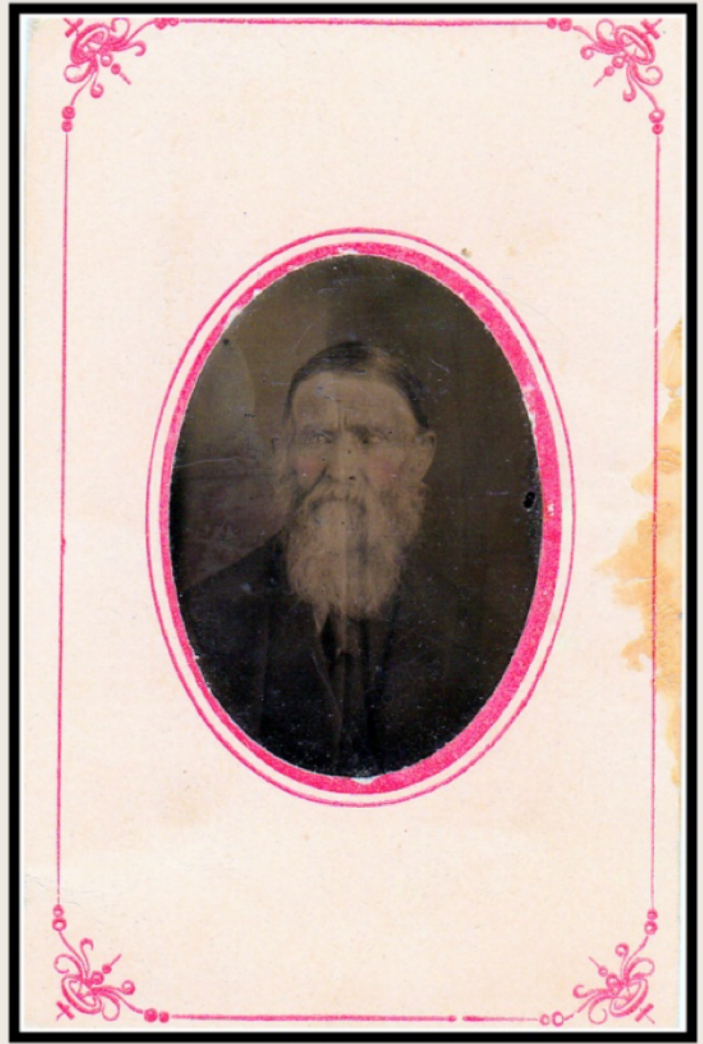
The honor of an official grave marking by the U.S. Daughters of the War of 1812 will be given by the Niagara Frontier Chapter (U.S.D. War 1812) and Christine A. Holley, associate member and descendant of her patriot ancestor, Hiram S. Simpson.

Congratulations to the Niagara Frontier Chapter of U. S. D of 1812 on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of their chapter. The Simpson Grave Marking ceremony has graciously been added to their anniversary events.

Please join us at the Hillside Cemetery – (Angling Rd. halfway between Rt 5 and Rt 33) East Pembroke, NY (Corfu).



Nancy Caslar Simpson - 1800-1881



Hiram S. Simpson – 1795 – 1867

Hiram S. Simpson was born in Salem, Washington Co. NY in 1795. His family moved to Scipio, Cayuga Co in what was referred to as the Military Tract in 1797. In 1810 he shows up in Troupsburg, Steuben Co. By 1814, he was drafted in the War of 1812 and his company marched to Fort Erie. Where he served, returning to Troupsburg after the war. Hiram & Nancy Caslar were married in Jan of 1812 by Hiram's brother Alexander Simpson in Troupsburg. In 1839, the family shows up in East Pembroke, with 5 children & 2 adults. Under the Bounty-Land act of 1855, Hiram's Land Bounty records from the War of 1812 indicate that he received 120 acres in Sioux City, Iowa, which he then sold. These records also show that he received 40 acres in Howard, Arkansas, which he also sold. Hiram and his family then lived in the East Pembroke area for approximately 35 years. Nancy Simpson filed for a Widow's Pension in March of 1878. Several of the documents were marked "Too Feeble to Sign", so she was allowed to sign with an "X". She was granted \$8.00 a month and received this until 1880 when the Statute of Limitations ran out. She died 1 year later.



Andre' Marcel Charles Trax was born 13 Sept 1923 in Nancy, France. He joined the military in 1944 at the age of 21. He resided in Moussey (Vosges) & was part of a resistance group that for the most part had come there to avoid going to work for compulsory labor in Germany. They worked for the Eaux et Forets Vosges & joined the Forestry Resistance. Unfortunately the Germans conducted 3 large raids in this valley of Rabodeau. Andre' Trax was arrested during the 2nd roundup on September 24, 1944 in Moussey. All his group of resisters were arrested & walked in the rain and cold to the camp of Schirmeck. From there they were transferred by train to the DACHAU concentration camp. Andre Trax arrived at the DACHAU camp probably in a cattle car on October 9, 1944. He was tattooed registration number 114684 and later was transferred to Buchenwald/Ohrdruf. On April 5th, 1945, the American Troops discovered the camp of Ohrdruf, Kaommando de Buchenwald. They found a few survivors & many corpses. This was the first real contact of Americans with the horror of these concentration camps. Andre died on July 1, 1946 in Czechoslovakia apparently too weak to survive the repatriation convoy.

A noted French researcher, Lillane JEROME is responsible for collecting the photographs of the shot, the deported dead in camp and the deportees released for the Memory Center Moussey scheduled to open in 2017.

She was able to locate a cousin of Andre' who is in possession of the frame shown below with the posthumous medals and the photograph of Andre' in the center of the frame.



The Apple of Her Eye

By John A. Holley

Content and the source can be equally exciting. Often times even the most experienced family researcher does not recognize what should be obvious in newly found family information. Fact checking is critical to the discovered content, but all too often the personal side of the source can be glossed over, especially if it comes from either a published source or an unknown family researcher.

When I started my Holley Family tree several years ago, I wanted to be as factual as possible and always identify my sources. Two main sources made up much of my tree, the Holly Barbour Index and a Holly Family Genealogy both found on the CTGenWeb site. These two dependable sources cover over two hundred years of Holly Family History. Note: the “e” in Holly didn’t start until the 1780’s.

The Holly Family Genealogy is widely available and I had no idea how the data was compiled or who might have been the author(s). A recent visit to the Stamford Historical Society in CT quickly changed my appreciation for the existence of this Holly Family Study. I was shown a Photostat copy of the original document prepared by **Charles Moses Holly** in 1861. I spent some time examining the aged and frail pages and left with a new appreciation of the Holly Family study, completed by a fifth cousin so many years ago.

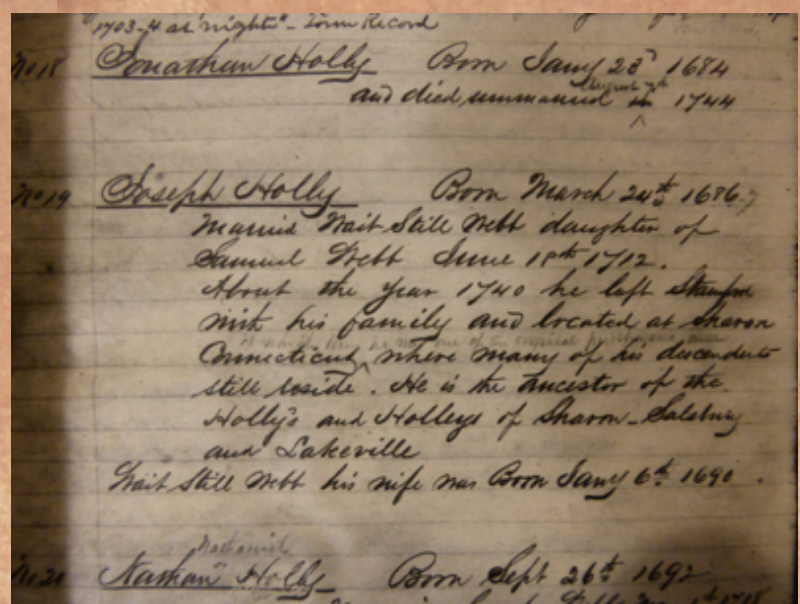
But wait, there is more to the adventure, the next day took me to the Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford, CT to look over the extensive Holly collection that resides in the Waterman Research Center. My research discovered a particular letter of interest because of my visit to Stamford the day before. This letter was written on October 25, 1935 by **Adelaide Milton de Groot to Malcom Day Rudd**, both respected Holly family researchers in their time. Here is an excerpt from her letter:

“My Dear Mr. Rudd, in returning from a delightful tercentenary voyage of two months through Mother’s state, Connecticut I found your letter – you will be gratified to know that through my efforts the Holly Genealogy is saved for posterity”.

Adelaide was speaking about the Holly Family Photostat which she donated to Stamford Historical Society in 1934, the one I had examined the day before. The letter continues:

“I spent a winter in Stamford (1933) settling various matters – among other things I remembered Mother’s report that Cousin Eliza left directions in her will that the pedigree her brother had worked out so laboriously should be destroyed. I called on her old servant, Mrs. Julius and expressed my feelings on the subject. What was my joy when I found that she had saved the manuscript – but as she treasured it like the apple of her eye – it was only when her husband assured her that I appeared to be a “responsible person” that she consented to lend the volume”.

Adelaide’s letter went on to describe how she had it copied at the New York Public Library in New York City. Mrs. Julius could not be induced to sell the original, so Adelaide did the best she could under the circumstances. This landmark Holly pedigree lives on. Future Holley researchers will continue to benefit thanks to the forethought of one Adelaide Milton de Groot and the dedication of one family researcher, Malcom Day Rudd, who together brought the Charles Moses Holly Family genealogy story to full circle. The information itself and the very touching story of how this documentation was preserved will stand the test of time for all future Holly (Holley) (Hawley) researchers.



Holly Family Photostat
 donated to Stamford
 Historical Society in 1934



Charles Moses Holly
 18 Nov 1826 - 31 Dec 1887
 Stamford, Fairfield, Connecticut

Adelaide Milton de Groot was an artist, art collector, patron, philanthropist and genealogical hobbyist. De Groot owned work by, among others, J. B. C. Corot, Gustave Courbet, Henri Rousseau, Pablo Picasso, George Braque, Jacob Jordaens, Maurice Utrillo, Jules Pascin, Chaim Soutine, William Merritt Chase, Alfred Sisley, Winslow Homer, Francois Boucher, George Bellows, Peter Kohlbeck, Gaston Lachaise, Johan Barthold Jongkind, Amedeo Modigliani, Claude Monet, August Rodin, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Eugène Delacroix, Paul Gauguin, Henri Toulouse-Lautrec, and Vincent Van Gogh. De Groot was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Huguenot Society. Her parents were William de Groot (merchant, 1825–1898) and Elizabeth [King Hawley] de Groot (1833–1926), her sister was Elizabeth Hawley de Groot, later Countess d'Aspremont (1873–1901). She also had three half-sisters: Mary (1851–), Fanny (1851–), and Grace (1853–).



Adelaide Milton de Groot 1876-1967



Malcolm at home with his family Salisbury, CT

Malcolm Day Rudd (1877-1942), was the third son of Gen. William B. Rudd and Maria Coffing Holley Rudd.

Malcolm was interested in his family's and his community's history. He was involved in the work of patriotic and historical societies including the Connecticut Division, Sons of Veterans, the Grand Army of the Republic Association, the Connecticut Society of Sons of the American Revolution, the Connecticut Historical Society, the American Historical Association, and the Salisbury Association, Inc. He wrote several books on local history and served as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Department of War Records of the State of Connecticut.

There are four hand-written copies of the poem that are known to exist and three are in museums, including the [New-York Historical Society](#) library.

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through
the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds;
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And Mamma in her kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap;
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the latch.
The moon, on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny rein-deer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his couriers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;
"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donder and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

FRESH FLOWERS



**'Twas the night before Christmas, when all thro' the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar plums danced in their heads**

Clement Clarke Moore (1779 - 1863)